

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
UNITED STATES FORCES, JAPAN
OKINAWA BUREAU
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96239

21 April 1976

[redacted]
Acting Chief, Operations Group

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Dear [redacted]

Subject: Seoul Bureau

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Ref: [redacted] 10 March letter
to [redacted]
19 April message to [redacted]

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Here are the details promised in my message of 19 April:

Bureau Floor Plan: Attached is a copy of [redacted] and my proposed floor plan for the bureau. The chancery building has no permanent interior walls and therefore we will be able to reconfigure the space allotted to us in any way we wish. Our design provides for three separate monitoring rooms, one with three positions and the other two with two each. Actually another position could easily be fit into each of these rooms. There is also a cruising room and a television room, the latter with considerably more space than will be required for monitoring television. We provided for a wireroom with acoustical tiling and carpeting, for an editorial room, a shop, an engineer's office, an admin area and a chief's office. This design could easily be altered and we will not have to give our final word to the GSO until well after [redacted] arrival.

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Communications: [redacted] told us he would have no objection to our using one channel of the [redacted] circuit when it becomes operational, although he added the embassy had been asking about that channel and also he had heard it might be earmarked for USLO Peking. He was in the process of installing an antenna for [redacted] and expected the circuit to be activated in a month or so.

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As instructed in your message of 6 April, I raised for discussion with Maurine Crane the possibility of our taking over the running of the embassy's unclassified wireroom. She thought that a "pregnant idea," although Ben Jackson, the embassy Communications and Records Officer, was less enthusiastic, mainly, he said, because he was not certain we could provide the kind of service the embassy required. I assured

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him we could and Maurine Crane seemed to have no doubts about that. She said she would want to think the idea over further and to check with the Department. I pointed out that the final FBIS decision would be made by Headquarters.

The embassy wireroom uses a Mode V Autodin circuit which goes by military cable and microwave to the ASC at Taegu, Korea. The only altroute is the commo circuit. The wireroom has a T/O of four locals, one of whom is in training, and handles some 6,000 words per day outgoing and 50,000 words per day incoming; about 20 to 30 percent of the latter is FBIS material. The wireroom operates from 0700 to 2100 Monday through Friday and during the day only on Saturday. There are three ASR's in the wireroom and a Mode V terminal; military technicians maintain the latter, while the ASR's are serviced by Station technicians.

If we do take over this operation, we will have to assume the wireroom's present duties of distributing incoming messages to all the components of the embassy. This would not be a terribly difficult task, but it is one FBIS is not generally accustomed to performing. On the plus side, taking over the unclassified wireroom would mean we would take over the fur teletypists now on board who know the system, and we would also presumably take over the embassy's autodin circuit. We would then have to acquire an altroute and Jack and I recommend we obtain a dedicated circuit for this until [] comes in, after which time we could change to [] for our primary circuit and use autodin as our altroute.

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We also discussed our taking over the embassy wireroom with the commo man and he said he would have no problems with such a development and would report that to his headquarters.

Housing: As I reported in my message, the housing is excellent. Having spent almost two years on Okinawa and observed the administrative and other work involved in managing a housing area, I was delighted to hear that the GSO will be running the whole show in Seoul.

Wage Scale: A copy of the Seoul Embassy local compensation plan is attached, along with my recommendation that

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we place our employees on that plan. I discussed this at length with Vincent Farley, the Embassy Personnel Officer, and, as is noted in my attached memo, he and I agree on the assignment of grades to our employees. The FSL-P-1 on the local compensation plan is a supergrade for political analysts and probably would not apply to us, although we could eventually ask for one such position if we decide we need one. Mr. Farley thought we would have no difficulty finding Korean monitors to work at the grades specified. We would hire them at FSL-4 or FSL-5, with FSL-3's as journeyman monitors and FSL-2's as unit chiefs.

I recommend we hire a local secretary rather than an administrative assistant. This would be an FSL-5 position and the secretary would be a receptionist, answer the phone, file and type unclassified correspondence. I am not convinced we need a driver, but would prefer not to give up the position now. It might be possible to have the technician work evenings and drive the other swingshift workers home in the bureau bus before curfew, keeping the bus at his house overnight. [] and I can discuss this in June and come up with a more definite plan then.

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TCN's: I discussed the benefits to be provided to TCN's with Maurine Crane, including the two-year salary retention policy for those transferred, and she concurred in them as spelled out in [] letter. She expressed serious misgivings about bringing in the two Mandarin monitors from Tokyo Bureau, both of whom are naturalized Japanese citizens and both of whom make only slightly less than \$17,000 per year. I didn't tell her their present salaries but she was familiar with Tokyo wages and assumed they would be large in comparison to those paid in Korea. In addition to salaries three to four times as large as those the Korean monitors would be receiving, the Mandarin monitors would be provided a housing allowance, an education allowance, and a paid trip to Tokyo every two years. Added to all this, Maurine hastened to point out, is the fact that the Koreans are not particularly fond of Japanese. I suggest we reconsider the transfer of the two Mandarin monitors from Tokyo Bureau to Seoul and perhaps offer them employment on Okinawa. The embassy personnel officer thought there might well be Chinese monitors available in Seoul or Incheon and he is trying to come up with some candidates for us. If there are none, I could recruit in

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Taiwan, offering the same wages as the Korean monitors receive plus housing, education allowance and home leave. I think I might be able to lure some Chinese from Taiwan to Seoul with such compensation; and if there are no Koreans who can do the job, the Koreans would have little basis to object to these few extra privileges for the Chinese. We also still have the option of transferring [] from Okinawa to Seoul. He is very interested in going, has a Korean wife, and his salary is now slightly over \$10,000. [] would also be my first choice as a TDY trainer of Chinese monitors and to test applicants.

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In the meantime, I intend to try to find out whether there are any Chinese monitors available in Korea when I go to Seoul in June. So far, [] has come up with one former employee whom I will test. As I reported in my message, Maurine Crane did not say no to the TCN's from Tokyo and we will of course hire them if you decide we should.

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I am still planning to go to Seoul in mid-June with [] to recruit Korean monitors and would recommend that [] come as planned to oversee the physical installation of the bureau and to keep in touch at FSK. Jack and I visited FSK one afternoon and renewed our contact with Captain [] who is the man responsible for our project. [] said he foresaw no problems with setting up our remote unit at FSK and no reason why our antennas should not be in place by the end of the year at the latest.

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Please let me know if I have not answered any of the questions in [] letter sufficiently. Jack and I established a number of contacts at the embassy and we should be able to get additional answers from them quickly.

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Finally, as I mentioned in my message, Jack and I found the people at the embassy extremely cooperative and came away convinced that the operating atmosphere for a bureau in Seoul will be excellent. [] might want to express FBIS' appreciation for the assistance provided by the embassy, especially by Maurine Crane, GSO Byron Manfull, Budget and Fiscal Officer Wayne Wong, and Personnel Officer Vincent Farley.

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Sincerely,

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Deputy Chief, Okinawa Bureau

cc: Chief, Tokyo Bureau

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- Attachment 1. Proposed bureau floor plan; present floor layout; building description. *ES*
- Attachment 2. Memo to Proposed pay schedule for Seoul Bureau employees; copy of embassy local compensation plan. *.25X1
AS*
- Attachment 3. Floor plan of seventh floor showing location of wireroom and TCU; sketch of present wireroom; description of wireroom. *CB, ES*
- Attachment 4. Estimates for space reconfiguration and office furniture. *ES, AS, E & PS*
- Attachment 5. Floor plan of fifth floor showing location of microwave room; description of possible cable run. *CB, ES*
- Attachment 6. Reception report and grounding system. *FCS, ES*
- Attachment 7. Estimate of materials to be FBIS furnished; copy of Nepcoduct wiring system. *ES*

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):

Attachment Missing